

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE MEDIA REACTION

1. NZ "HERALD" OF MAY 18 RAN SIX COLUMN FEATURE BY
"HERALD SPECIAL SERVICE" FROM THE LONDON "ECONOMIST"
ON EDITORIAL PAGE ENTITLED "NO CLEAR POLICIES FROM
MONDALE 'DEFINITIONS'," W/TWO COLUMN PIX OF VP AND SUB-
HEAD "OFFERING BAUBLES AND MORALITY." EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

2. "IN THE COURSE OF TWELVE DAYS, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS
WIFE AND ELDEST SON THROUGH A SUCCESSION OF AMERICAN-
INSPIRED HOTEL SUITES, MR. WALTER MONDALE, THE U.S.
VICE PRESIDENT, VISITED THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND,
INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. BEFORE HE LEFT
WASHINGTON THE TRIP WAS DESCRIBED AS A 'DEFINITION' OF
AMERICAN POLICY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. BY THE TIME HE HAD
RETURNED HE HAD MADE A NUMBER OF DEFINITE STATEMENTS ON THE
THEME - BUT IT MAY TAKE A MORE INGENIOUS MIND THAN MR.
MONDALE'S TO FASHION THEM INTO A POLICY.

3. "IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO THE YEARS OF THE KOREAN
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AND VIETNAM WARS, WHEN ASIA WAS THE PIVOT AND EXAMPLE
OF U.S. POLICIES OVERSEAS, THE REGION IS NOW A BACKWATER
IN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION'S MAP OF THE WORLD.

4. "MR. CARTER, WHEN HE CAME TO OFFICE, SHOWED AN
ALMOST CLUMSY EAGERNESS TO REMOVE THE TRACES OF AMERICAN
INVOLVEMENT THERE, ANNOUNCING THE WITHDRAWAL OF 30,000

TROOPS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS FROM BASES IN SOUTH KOREA. SINCE THEN, FROM TIME TO TIME, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE TRIED TO SOOTHE THE EAST ASIANS BY ASSURING THEM THAT THEIR COUNTRIES ARE, INDEED, IMPORTANT AND STRATEGIC, AND ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

5. "NONETHELESS, BEFORE MR. MONDALE'S TRIP, AND BARRING THE PACKAGES OF ARMS AND AID WHICH ARE FERRIED ACROSS ALMOST AS A MATTER OF COURSE, WASHINGTON'S INTEREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA COULD BE THOUGHT TO STOP AT THE TONGSUN PARK PAYMENTS SCANDAL - THAT IS, AT ITS OWN DOORSTEP. MR. MONDALE'S FIRST TASK WAS TO CONVINCE HIS HOSTS THAT THEIR SECURITY CONCERNED BOTH HIM AND MR. CARTER."

6. ARTICLE THEN STATES THAT VP ANNOUNCED THAT AMERICAN STRENGTH IN AREA WOULD "STAY AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL OF 140,000 SERVICEMEN." SAID IN MANILA SOME PROGRESS MADE ON BASE AGREEMENT; IN THAILAND AND INDONESIA, COMMITTED U.S. IN PROVIDING "REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT," AND "AT EVERY STAGE HE OFFERED ECONOMIC BAUBLES, EITHER OF AID OR TRADE..."

7. "MR. MONDALE'S MOST DELICATE PROBLEMS HINGED ON HUMAN RIGHTS - AN ISSUE HE WAS ORDERED IN WASHINGTON TO CONFRONT, PROBABLY NOT TO HIS DISTASTE, THOUGH CERTAINLY AGAINST THE FEELINGS OF MR. CYRUS VANCE, THE SECRETARY
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OF STATE."

8. WRITER THEN SAYS THAT SOME OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED HIM "TO MISS MANILA ALTOGETHER," WHERE HE SPENT SOME OF HIS TIME IN THE "SHINY COMFORT OF THE NEW PLAZA HOTEL, WHICH IS OWNED BY THE MARCOS FAMILY." ADDED THAT IN BOTH PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA HE "SIGNED AGREEMENTS PROMISING SMALL AMOUNTS OF AID," AND IN THAILAND "WAS WILLING TO GIVE THE THAI GOVERNMENT 2MILLION DOLLARS" FOR RESETTLEMENT OF THE "BOAT PEOPLE."

9. "IN GENERAL, THOSE WHO DID NOT EXPECT FAVOURS AND WELCOMED MR. MONDALE WITH ONLY MODERATE ENTHUSIASM, LIKE THE THAIS AND THE INDONESIANS, ENDED BY FEELING NOT MUCH CROSSER THAN BEFORE; WHILE THOSE LIKE THE AUSTRALIANS AND THE NEW ZEALANDERS, WHO EXPECTED GREAT THINGS FROM HIM, FELT ACTIVELY DISAPPOINTED."

10. ARTICLE SAYS THAT VP OFFERED NO CONCESSIONS ON AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS OF BEEF OR ZINC TO U.S. AND SHOWED NO INTEREST IN PM FRAZER'S IDEA OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY BANK. SAYS WHAT VP DID OFFER, SUCH AS JOINT

NAVAL EXERCISE AND COOPERATION IN ENERGY RESEARCH, "WERE THE LEAST THE AUSTRALIANS CONSIDERED THEY MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED."

11. CONCLUSION STATED: "THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SEEN SOMETHING MORE THAN A MERE COMMITMENT OF THE U.S. TO THE SECURITY AND MORALITY OF THE REGION." ANDERSON

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